

REMARKS

In response to an Office Action mailed on November 3, 2006, Applicant files herewith a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and the above-listed Amendments. With entry of the above-listed Amendments, claims 1-14, 22 and 23 are amended, and claims 25-27 are new. Thus, 27 claims are presented for examination; of these, claims 1, 7 and 13 are independent, and the remaining claims are dependent.

The Examiner rejected claim 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Pat. No. 6,709,111 to Hirao, *et al.* ("Hirao") in view of U.S. Pat. No. 6,388,392 to Flory, IV ("Flory") and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 4,618,803 to Hardy ("Hardy"). The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

It should be noted that 24 claims were pending when the November 3, 2006 Office Action was mailed; however, that Office Action does not address claims 22-24. Dependent claims 22-24 were added by an Amendment filed July 18, 2006 and perfected by a Response to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment filed August 14, 2006. The Applicant believes claims 22-24 are allowable over the art of record. However, in the interest of compact prosecution, the Applicant interprets the Office Action of November 3, 2006 as rejecting claims 22-24 for the same reasons given for claims 1-21. The Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Applicant appreciates the time and courtesy extended to the undersigned by the Examiner and the Examiner's Supervisor (for simplicity, collectively referred to herein as the Examiner) during a telephonic interview on December 6, 2006. Some, but not all, of the reasons for rejection were discussed. Agreement was not reached. The Examiner asserted that a PTC is a commercially available item, thus a claim reciting a PTC used for such a purpose is not allowable. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with this stand.

The Application discloses a backup power supply for powering fan rotor circuitry, such as when an input voltage becomes insufficient to power the circuitry. The backup power supply includes a charge-current limited energy storage circuit. The charge-current limited energy storage circuit includes a current limiting element coupled in series with capacitive storage. The charge-current limited energy storage circuit is coupled in parallel with the rotor circuitry. The recited charge-current limited energy storage circuit is structurally different than a mere capacitor. The current limiting element limits the amount of current drawn by the capacitive

storage, while the capacitive storage charges. This current limitation enables the rotor circuitry to draw sufficient current from the input to operate while the capacitive storage charges.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite a “series combination of the current limiting element and the capacitive storage being coupled in parallel with the rotor circuitry.” (Emphasis added.) None of the art of record discloses or suggests such a circuit.

As the Examiner noted, Hirao does not disclose capacitive storage.

Flory discloses a capacitor in parallel with a lamp. However, Flory does not disclose a charge-current limited energy storage circuit in parallel with the lamp, where the charge-current limited energy storage circuit includes a current limiting element in series with capacitive storage. The Examiner asserted that Flory’s rectifier 62 (Fig. 7) is a current limiting element. Even if so, Flory’s rectifier 62 is not part of a series combination of a current limiting element and a capacitive storage that is in parallel with the lamp.

Hardy discloses a voltage doubler circuit 20 (Fig. 1) coupled to a flash tube 30. As in Flory, Hardy’s rectifier 24 is not part of a series combination of a current limiting element and a capacitive storage that is in parallel with the flash tube.

The recited series combination of a current limiting element and a capacitive storage that is in parallel with rotor circuitry is structurally different than anything disclosed or suggested by the art of record. As noted, the current limiting element limits the amount of current drawn by the capacitive storage, while the capacitive storage charges. This structure enables the rotor circuitry to draw sufficient current from the input to operate while the capacitive storage charges, even if the capacitive storage has a high value, such as one or more farads. The art of record teaches no such current limitation to enable a device to operate while capacitive storage charges. Thus, the disclosed and recited circuit provides an advantage over the capacitive circuits disclosed by the art of record.

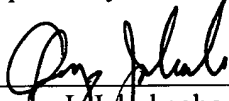
In summary, the art of record does not teach or suggest all the elements recited in claim

1. For at least this reason, claim 1 is believed to be allowable.

All the other independent claims have been amended to recite similar limitations. Thus, claims 7 and 13 are believed to be allowable, for at least the reasons given above, with respect to claim 1. Claims 2-6, 8-12 and 14-27 depend directly or indirectly from one of the independent claims. These dependent claims are, therefore, believe to be allowable, for at least the reasons give above, with respect to claim 1.

For all the foregoing reasons, it is respectfully submitted that the present Application is in a condition for allowance, and such action is earnestly solicited. Applicant hereby requests that any extension-of-time or other fee required for timely consideration of this application be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-4972. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any matter that would expedite allowance of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,



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